

- c) fractionating at least a portion of the oil residue obtained in
b) by thermal diffusion into oil fractions with high viscosity indices
and separating the oil fractions in accordance with their viscosity
index, and
recycling at least part of at least one fraction with low
viscosity index from c) to a).

17. (Amended) A process according to claim 15, in which the catalyst for d) comprises a
total concentration of oxides of metals from groups VIB and VIII in the range from about 1%
to 40% by weight, the ratio between the group VIB metal and the group VIII metal
expressed as metal oxides, being in the range about 20 to 1.25 by weight, and the
concentration of phosphorous oxides being less than about 15% by weight.

21. (Amended) A process according to claim 2, further comprising

- a) fractionating the effluent obtained from a) or d) in at least one
separator, into at least one gaseous effluent, which is
evacuated and into at least one liquid effluent which is sent to
b).